



Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Law Enforcement Section

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Public Information Release

Southern Region
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Aquatic Invasive Species Checkpoint on Interstate 15

May 13, 2011

Conservation officers and invasive species biologists with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) held a first-ever checkpoint on Interstate 15, targeting boaters transporting quagga and zebra mussels into the state. Conducted at the St. George port of entry, the operation was intended to address the threat represented by watercraft utilized on infested waters in Nevada and California.

During the course of the operation, all watercraft being transported northbound were inspected. Several of these boats had been on mussel-infested waters recently, one having been on Lake Havasu only hours before being inspected by UDWR personnel.

UDWR law enforcement section chief Mike Fowlks states, "Quagga mussels are not simply a threat to Utah's fisheries. Mussels can seriously degrade the capabilities of water distribution systems. In a desert environment, they are everyone's problem. Keeping Utah mussel-free is a high priority with our agency; and we appreciate the public's understanding of the threat we face and their support of our ongoing efforts. We would particularly like to thank the Utah Department of Transportation for their support in this endeavor."

The Division of Wildlife Resources takes the protection of Utah waterways and infrastructure seriously. As such, plans are in place to aggressively pursue an inspection program at our borders.



Utah conservation officers conducted an administrative checkpoint on Interstate 15 during the morning hours of May 13th, 2011. All northbound watercraft were stopped and inspected for the presence of invasive mussels.



ORIGINALLY CLEAN, THIS PIPE WAS SUBMERGED IN THE COLORADO RIVER NEAR THE CALIFORNIA/NEVADA BORDER FOR THREE MONTHS IN 2008. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

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